2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

15 June 2005

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Summary record of the 12th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 12 May 2005, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de Queiroz Duarte ..... (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Hassan** (Sudan) said that, although the Sudan was very pleased with the progress made towards implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) during the 35 years since its adoption, it was deeply concerned at the failure to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the volatile Middle East region and believed that it would be impossible to establish such a zone as long as Israel refused to submit its nuclear facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

2. Multilateral arrangements were key to the effective implementation of the Treaty. Accordingly, all nuclear-weapon States should take the initiative in that respect by destroying their nuclear arsenals and diverting their nuclear technologies towards peaceful uses. The success of international conventions required that States parties not only sign them, but also fulfil their commitment to implement them. In that regard, all delegations should start serious negotiations with a view to convening the United Nations Conference on Disarmament.

3. **Mr. Romulo** (Philippines) said that despite the spread of democracy following the end of the cold war mankind continued to live under the threat of weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear weapons had spread beyond the confines of the nuclear Powers. The influence of the NPT had thus far limited the number of nuclear Powers to 10, but it was urgently important to close the remaining loopholes in the Treaty in order to prevent that number from rising. More progress should be made towards implementing the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

4. The NPT was facing the most critical challenges in its history, including horizontal proliferation, vertical proliferation, the continued absence of de facto nuclear-weapon States from the scope of the Treaty, developing States' access to nuclear technology, paralysis in the multilateral disarmament machinery and the withdrawal from the Treaty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Moreover, plans to develop new nuclear-weapon technology and the failure to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force seriously undermined the Treaty's foundations.

5. On the positive side, several States had renounced nuclear weapons, and that process should be encouraged and sustained. Those States that had not yet signed safeguards agreements should do so without delay in order to help build confidence. Furthermore, four nuclear-weapon-free zones had been created, there was growing adherence to the NPT and the CTBT, and the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was also an encouraging sign.

6. However, total disarmament could not be achieved until deterrence was replaced by diplomacy and dialogue, and by collective security and the rule of law. Nuclear-weapon States must commit themselves to irreversible and transparent cuts in their nuclear arsenals, de-alert their weapons and provide non-nuclear-weapon States with negative security assurances.

7. Regional organizations played a key role in preventing proliferation. In that context, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should adhere to the spirit and letter of the NPT and return to the six-party talks. Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to reach agreement on objective guarantees that its nuclear programme was intended exclusively for peaceful purposes were welcome. India, Pakistan and Israel should accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States. Regional action should also take the form of specific mechanisms to address other aspects of possible proliferation. In that context, the creation of the Asian Atomic Energy Community (ASIATOM), proposed by the Philippines in 1996, was more urgent than ever.

8. Although the preparatory process leading to the current Conference had failed to yield agreements, many creative formulas had been presented and were worthy of consideration. The institutional framework of the NPT should be strengthened, and his delegation recommended serious consideration of the Model Additional Protocol on safeguards. A way must be found to prevent States that were in breach of the Treaty from trying to escape their obligations simply by withdrawing.

9. International commitments on the treatment of nuclear materials should be strictly observed, and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material strengthened. In the absence of progress in negotiations for a fissile material cut-off treaty, arrangements might be made to establish a five-year moratorium on additional facilities for uranium

enrichment and plutonium separation. The Conference should also make progress towards implementing the 13 steps on nuclear disarmament agreed at the previous Review Conference and the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agreed at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences. Furthermore, nuclear-weapon States should consider adhering to the Protocol of the South-East Asian nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaty.

10. As participants at the current Conference worked to achieve a credible and effective Treaty, they should not overlook the fact that billions of dollars were being spent on nuclear-weapon research and the maintenance of arsenals which could instead be used for disease prevention and the alleviation of hunger. Clearly, much remained to be done to construct a free and peaceful world.

11. **Mr. del Rosario Ceballos** (Dominican Republic) said that the future of nuclear disarmament was inextricably linked to compliance with the NPT and the CTBT. The Dominican Republic believed in the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, subject to strict safeguards, as set forth in article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The most important of the safeguards were the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, and any similar treaty yet to be agreed.

12. Despite all that had been achieved in the area of nuclear disarmament, efforts must still be made in certain areas, notably the transporting of nuclear waste by sea. In that regard, the Dominican Republic fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Bahamas on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The transporting of radioactive waste through the Caribbean Sea posed a grave danger to security, tourism, marine life and the environment. Despite the welcome safeguard mechanisms established by IAEA, the potential dangers of the practice remained a matter of concern, and due implementation of the NPT and other relevant treaties offered the only definitive solution to the problem. New measures should be adopted to complement existing security mechanisms, particularly in regard to guarantees against pollution of the marine environment, the exchange of information about routes and effective mechanisms and laws governing responsibility for damages.

13. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein) said that in the light of certain events over recent years the NPT was clearly in urgent need of strengthening. Although the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995 had been a complex and crucial diplomatic achievement, the Treaty was now suffering a crisis of confidence. The current Conference must lead to an outcome that restored the balance between the Treaty's three core objectives of non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In that regard, full commitment to, and reaffirmation of the existing non-proliferation and disarmament regime were of paramount importance.

14. Liechtenstein urged all 106 States that had not yet concluded an additional protocol to their safeguards agreements to do so with a view to strengthening IAEA verification mechanisms. It also supported the proposal of Canada to hold annual conferences of States parties to the NPT and to create a standing bureau which would be able to react to emergencies efficiently and effectively.

15. Sadly, almost 10 years after its adoption, the CTBT was still not in force. The possibility of future tests by any one of the nuclear-weapon States remained a great risk to international security, and Liechtenstein therefore wished to see a strengthening of their commitment to the moratorium on testing. Moreover, negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty had not yet started, and Liechtenstein was disappointed that no side seemed willing to take the initiative.

16. The 13 steps on nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 Review Conference remained important commitments, even though progress towards their implementation had been disappointing. In view of the various challenges faced by the NPT over recent years, States parties must seek to rebuild faith in its effectiveness. The outcome of the current Conference would also have a strong impact on the already difficult discussions on United Nations reform.

Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Main Committees, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee

17. **The President** said that the Group of Non-Aligned and Other States had nominated Mr. Owade (Kenya) to be Chairman of the Credentials Committee. He took it that the Conference wished to approve the nomination.

18. *Mr. Owade was elected Chairman of the Credentials Committee.*

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.